

REMARKS

The present amendment is filed along with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and responds to the Final Office Action in this application, mailed April 14, 2004.

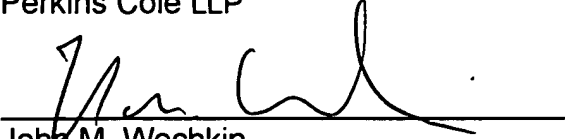
At the time the Final Office Action was mailed, claims 3, 6-9, 22, 24, 25, 32, 37, 38, 43-48, 52, 53, 55, 56, 68, 69 and 76-104 were pending. Claims 7, 9, 22, 52, 56, 96 and 97, which were rejected in the Final Office Action, have been cancelled from the application without commenting or conceding the merits of the Examiner's position with regard to these claims. Accordingly, the rejections of these claims are now moot. Claims 94, 95, 98, 99 and 102, which were objected to in the Final Office Action, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form, have been so amended. Accordingly, the objections to these claims, along with the objections to claims 103 and 104 (which depend from claim 102) should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 89, 90, 100, 103 and 104 have been amended to change the dependencies of these claims. These claims now depend from claims indicated to be allowable. New claims 105-124 also depend from claims indicated to be allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application in view of this amendment. If the Examiner has any questions or matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Wechkin', is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: July 14, 2004

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